

Lineage and Honors History  
Of the  
**406 Air Expeditionary Wing (USAFE)**

**Lineage.** Established as 406 Fighter-Bomber Wing on 25 Jun 1952. Activated on 10 Jul 1952. Redesignated 406 Fighter-Interceptor Wing on 1 Apr 1954. Inactivated on 15 May 1958. Redesignated 406 Tactical Fighter Training Wing on 20 Jun 1972. Activated on 15 Jul 1972. Inactivated on 31 Oct 1992. Redesignated 406 Air Expeditionary Wing, and converted to provisional status, on 5 Feb 2001.

**Assignments.** Third Air Force, 10 Jul 1952-15 May 1958. Sixteenth Air Force, 15 Jul 1972-31 Oct 1992. United States Air Forces in Europe to activate or inactivate at anytime after 5 Feb 2001.

**Components.** *Group.* **406:** 10 Jul 1952-1 May 1956. *Squadrons.* **87:** attached 21 Dec 1954-8 Sep 1955. **512:** 1 May 1956-24 Mar 1958. **513:** 1 May 1956-25 Apr 1958. **514:** 1 May 1956-15 May 1958.

**Stations.** RAF Station Manston (later, RAF Manston), England, 10 Jul 1952-15 May 1958. Zaragoza AB, Spain, 15 Jul 1972-31 Oct 1992.

**Commanders.** Col Philip P. Ardery, 10 Jul 1952; Col George F. Ceuleers, 13 Oct 1952; Col Conrad J. Herlick, 26 Oct 1952; Col William S. Harrell, 15 Jun 1955; Col Hugh B. Manson Jr., 8 Jul 1955-15 May 1958. Col Richard G. Collins, 15 Jul 1972; Col Carl H. Cathey Jr., 30 Aug 1972; Col Richard E. Skelton, 20 Apr 1974; Col Benjamin R. Battle, 25 Apr 1975; Col David W. Forgan, 14 Jul 1975; Col Harley N. Wills, 14 Jul 1977; Col Richard M. Pascoe, 1 Jun 1979; Col Richard L. Craft, 2 Apr 1981; Col Edward B. White, 7 Jul 1982; Col John Granskog, 28 Jun 1984; Col Travis E. Harrell, 14 May 1986; Col

Omar R. Wiseman, 20 Dec 1987; Col Edward V. Mangis, 30 Aug 1989; Col Jeffrey S. Pilkington, 12 Jun 1991-unkn.

**Aircraft.** F-84, 1952-1953; F-86, 1953-1958.

**Operations.** Trained in fighter-bomber and air defense operations after activation in England, 1952-1953. Provided air defense in United Kingdom, 1954-1958 and in the Netherlands 1954-1955. Phased down for inactivation, Feb-May 1958. Replaced the 406<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Training Group in July 1972. Assumed responsibility for operating and maintaining Zaragoza AB, Spain, its associated gunnery ranges, and air combat tactics training areas. Combat units of the United States Air Forces in Europe deployed weapons training detachments (WTD) to Zaragoza for training. The 406<sup>th</sup> provided full support and temporarily controlled these detachments, although it had no tactical squadrons or permanently assigned aircraft. Attached WTDs often participated in tactical exercises, as well as range training. Beginning in 1976, the Wing operated the USAFE Tactical Forces Employment School and USAFE Instructor Pilot School. The 406<sup>th</sup> began full support of a KC-135 detachment on a permanent basis in 1976, adding 10 KC-10 aircraft during the Persian Gulf War, 1990-1991. Prepared Zaragoza AB, for closure and return to Spanish AF control at the end of 1992.

**Service Streamers.** None

**Campaign Streamers.** None

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers.** None

**Decorations.** Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards: [15 Jul 1972]-30 Jun 1973; 1 Jul 1974-30 Jun 1976; 1 Jul 1980-30 Jun 1982; 1 Jul 1982-30 Jun 1984; 1 Jul 1986-30 Jun 1987; 1 Jan 1989-31 Dec 1990; 1 Jan 1991-30 Sep 1992.

**Bestowed Honors.** Authorized to display honors earned by the 406 Expeditionary Operations Group prior to 10 Jul 1952. *Service Streamers:* World War II American Theater. *Campaign Streamers:* World War II: Air Offensive, Europe; Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; Central Europe; Air Combat, EAME. *Decorations:* Distinguished Unit Citations: Chateauroux, France, 7 Sep 1944; Bastogne, Belgium, 23-27 Dec 1944.

**Lineage, Assignments, Components, Stations, and Honors through 5 Feb 2001**

**Commanders, Aircraft, and Operations through 30 Jun 1991**

**Supersedes** published information contained in Charles A. Ravenstein, *Air Force Combat Wings: Lineage and Honors Histories, 1947-1977* (Washington, USGPO, 1984).

**Emblem.** Approved on 14 May 1953

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